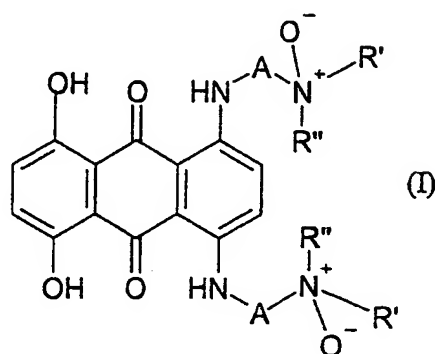


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (original). A compound of formula (I):



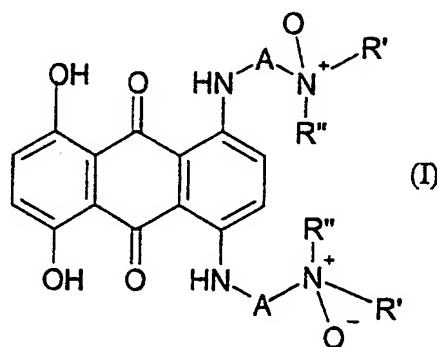
in which A is a C alkylene group with a chain length between NH and N(O)R'R" of at least 2 carbon atoms and R' and R" are each separately selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl groups and C₂₋₄ hydroxyalkyl and C₂₋₄ dihydroxyalkyl groups in which the carbon atom attached to the nitrogen atom does not carry a hydroxy group and no carbon atom is substituted by two hydroxy groups, or R' and R" together are a C₂₋₆ alkylene group which with the nitrogen atom to which R' and R" are attached forms a heterocyclic group having 3 to 7 atoms in the ring,

characterized in that the compound is formulated so that upon dissolution in aqueous solution the pH of the solution is in the range of 5 to 9.

2 (original). A compound as claimed in claim 1 characterized in that the compound is formulated so that upon dissolution in aqueous solution the pH of the solution is in the range of 6 to 8.

3 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 characterized in that the compound is used in the form of a salt with an physiologically acceptable acid having a pK_a in the range of -3.0 (minus 3.0) to 9.0.

4 (original). A compound of formula (I):



in which A is a C alkylene group with a chain length between NH and N(O)R'R'' of at least 2 carbon atoms and R' and R'' are each separately selected from C₁₋₄ alkyl groups and C₂₋₄ hydroxyalkyl and C₂₋₄ dihydroxyalkyl groups in which the carbon atom attached to the nitrogen atom does not carry a hydroxy group and no carbon atom is substituted by two hydroxy groups, or R' and R'' together are a C₂₋₆ alkylene group which with the nitrogen atom to which R' and R'' are attached forms a heterocyclic group having 3 to 7 atoms in the ring,

characterized in that the compound is in the form of a salt with a physiologically acceptable acid having a pK_a in the range of -3.0 (minus 3.0) to 9.0.

5 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in claim 3 ~~or 4~~ characterised in that the physiologically acceptable acid has a pK_a in the range of 2.0 to 9.0.

6 (original). A compound as claimed in claim 5 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable acid has a pK_a in the range of 2.0 to 6.0.

7 (original). A compound as claimed in claim 6 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable acid has a pK_a in the range of 3.0 to 6.0.

8 (original). A compound as claimed in claim 3 characterised in that the physiologically acceptable is an organic mono-, di- or tri-acid.

9 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in claim 3 ~~or 4~~ characterised in that the physiologically acceptable selected from the group consisting of tartaric acid, malonic acid, dichloroacetate acid, citric acid, maleic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, pimelic acid and acetic acid.

10 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 characterised in that A is a straight chain alkylene group.

11 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 characterised in that A is ethylene.

12 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 characterised in that R' and R" are straight chain alkyl groups or hydroxy-substituted alkyl groups.

13 (original). A compound as claimed in claim 12 characterised in that R' and R" are each CH₃ or CH₂CH₃.

14 (original). A compound as claimed in claim 13 characterised in that each group of formula NH-A-N(O)R'R" is group of formula NH-(CH₂)₂-N(O)(CH₃)₂.

15 (currently amended). A compound as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 characterised in that the compound is formulated in a mixture containing additional components so that upon dissolution in aqueous solution the pH of the solution is buffered to be in the range of 5 to 9.

16 (currently amended). An aqueous solution of a compound as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, characterised in that the pH of the solution is in the range of 5 to 9.

17 (currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a

compound of formula (1) as defined in any of ~~claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 together with a physiologically acceptable diluent or carrier.

18 (currently amended). A compound of formula (I) as defined in ~~any of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 for use in therapy.